

Approved For Release 2003/01/30 : CIA-RDP80B01676R004200080012-7

November 18, 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: General C. P. Cabell, Deputy Director,
Central Intelligence Agency.

SUBJECT: Anti-trust Suit Against the United Fruit Company.

It is our understanding that the Federal Court in New Orleans has set January 6, 1958 as the date on which the Government's anti-trust case against the United Fruit Company will come to trial.

In view of the uneasy political situation in several of the Latin American countries where the Fruit Company has extensive interests, this Department is in some doubt whether it would be in the national interest for the trial to begin at that particular time. I refer in this connection to the forthcoming elections in Guatemala now scheduled for January 19. As you also know, conditions in Honduras have not yet resolved themselves and elections are due in Costa Rica on February 2. It might be as well or better for the trial to begin in March, for example.

In view of the foregoing, this Department would appreciate having an expression of your Agency's views on the question.

S/
R. R. Rubottom, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

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